

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Will Investigate Cost of Producing Tomato Paste

An investigation of the cost of production of tomato paste will be made by the U. S. Tariff Commission, according to an order issued by the Commission under date of October 14th. Date of the public hearing, which is to be fixed by public notice thirty days prior to the hearing, has not been announced by the Commission.

### No Likelihood of Corn Borer in Canned Corn

A statement that should do much to allay any fear on the part of consumers that canned corn is likely to contain corn borers appeared in the last issue of "With the Corn Borer," issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Association has learned that such fears have been expressed in some sections, and has recently handled a case in which the foolish claim was made that illness had been caused by a borer in canned corn.

Publicity has not been given to the subject, owing to the possibility of arousing general concern among consumers. However, the statement issued by the Department of Agriculture can well be given circulation by canners in any locality where canned foods users have had fears or suspicions aroused. The statement follows:

"That in some localities consumers are showing a lack of demand for canned sweet corn on the ground that it is likely to contain corn borers is indicated in reports recently made to the Department, says Dr. A. F. Woods, in general charge of the corn borer campaign, U. S. Department of Agriculture. According to best advices, the Department considers that there is no likelihood of any canned corn containing borers. In the first place, only a very limited supply of sweet corn used for canning comes from the infested area. Corn obtained from this area or adjacent territory is twice submitted to a rigid inspection. First it is inspected in the field, and if any borers are found, the corn from that grower is not accepted. Upon delivery, all sweet corn is carefully inspected before unloading and refused if any trace of the borer is found. Cannerymen in this area have cooperated to the fullest extent with State and Federal authorities in the control of the borer by destroying all infested material and corn refuse of all kinds and in preventing the use of any contaminated corn for canning purposes."

#### Additional Figures on 1927 Pea Pack

The Census Bureau's report on the 1927 pea pack was summarized in last week's Information Letter. Following are the Bureau's figures on the number of companies reporting, the number of canneries they operated and the production, by states, so far as the figures can be given without disclosing the operations of individual establishments:

States	Establishments reporting	Canneries operated	Total cases as reported	Equivalent total standard cases <sup>a</sup>
Wisconsin .....	107	123	6,412,024	6,549,449
New York .....	42	63	1,600,357	1,667,677
Maryland .....	23	29	952,316	985,631
Utah .....	5	10	763,115	801,709
Illinois .....	7	8	560,994	563,246
Minnesota .....	6	9	489,028	496,776
Michigan .....	4	10	392,019	399,233
Montana .....	3	3	260,246	267,899
Delaware and New Jersey .....	13	15	265,681	267,145
Ohio .....	5	9	201,077	205,113
Pennsylvania .....	12	12	177,487	181,116
Washington .....	3	3	134,523	138,514
Indiana .....	6	6	89,512	89,907
All other States <sup>b</sup> ..	12	17	311,198	322,600
United States ..	248	317	12,609,577	12,936,017

<sup>a</sup> Standard case of 24 No. 2 cans.

<sup>b</sup> California, 2 establishments; Colorado, 3; Idaho, 1; Iowa, 1; Maine, 2; Massachusetts, 1; Tennessee, 1; Virginia, 1.

**Committee on Definitions and Standards to Meet**

Chairman Fred A. Stare has called a meeting of the Committee on Definitions and Standards to be held at Washington on the morning of November 30 preceding the meeting of the Board of Directors. Among subjects to be considered are the results obtained from trials of the tentative score sheets for canned corn and peas prepared last May, and recommendations received from distributors with respect to changes in the Army specifications for canned peas and tomatoes.

**Ladies Home Journal to Publish Article on Canned Food Buying**

In the November issue of the Ladies Home Journal will be published an article, "Buying Canned Goods Economically," which is certain to interest both canners and canned food distributors. Through the courtesy of the Curtis Publishing Company, a copy of this article is being mailed to members of the Association with this week's Information Letter in advance of the sales dates of the Journal, October 29.

**Figures on California Peach Pack Compiled**

The pack of cling and free peaches in California in 1927 amounted to 11,150,493 cases of all grades and sizes, according to a report issued by the Canners League of California. This is a decrease of 3,321,584 cases from the pack of 1926.

The figures for Southern California included in these totals were compiled by the Southern California Canners Association. The Southern California pack amounted to 985,691 cases of clings and 215,234 cases of free peaches.

**Rate Reductions on Deciduous Fruits Again Postponed**

The effective date of the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission reducing freight rates on deciduous fruits from California to Eastern points has again been postponed, and the Commission has likewise modified its original order so that it does not apply to shipments on routes via North Pacific Coast gateways.

Under the new postponement, December 10 is made the effective date. The original order was entered July 20, and by its terms the rates became effective on October 10. On the petition of the railroads the Commission ordered postponement of the effective date to November 10, and this is now changed to December 10.

As noted in the Information Letter for October 8, the Northern transcontinental railroads raised the question whether

the Commission intended by its order to require a reduction in the rates from California via the North Pacific gateways, and the Commission has now modified its original order so as to except shipments over these routes.

#### **Facts on Vitamins for Grocers**

The Progressive Grocer for October contains an excellent summary of the facts on vitamins in canned foods, presented, as an editorial introduction states, because "customers often ask about the health value of various foods—as to vitamin content." The Progressive Grocer has a circulation in excess of 50,000 copies, and this article will be very helpful in giving to a large number of grocers the information they need to sell canned foods more intelligently.

#### **Bureau Reports Progress in Fishery Industries**

Fishery industries of the United States as a whole seem to be in a more prosperous and stable condition than in any year since the post-war depression in 1921, the Bureau of Fisheries states in its annual report for 1926. The industries are also reported to be making perceptible progress in the improvement of methods of production and quality of products.

The new process of preparing sardines developed by the Bureau is being adopted and will help in improving the quality of domestic sardines, it is stated. In California, machines for cutting sardines, which will help lower costs, are now coming into use. California canners have also voluntarily asked the State board of health to include their factories in the regular inspection of canning establishments.

#### **Decisions of Courts and Opinions Affecting Labor**

A review of the decisions of the courts and of the legal opinions affecting labor during the year 1926 is contained in Bulletin 444 just issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workmen's compensation continues to afford the most fruitful source of material, the courts being still called upon in numerous instances to give construction to this form of legislation.

#### **Michigan Canners to Meet November 11**

President Dan Gerber has announced that the annual meeting of the Michigan Canners Association will be held at Grand Rapids on Friday, November 11.

### Bulletin on Apricot Production and Distribution

A study of commercial apricot production and distribution has been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Berkeley in its series of reports on California crops and prices. The bulletin states that between 1918 and 1926 the bearing acreage of apricots increased 83 per cent. The bulk of the California crop has a three-way outlet—dried, canned, or shipped fresh. Increase of the consumption of fresh apricots depends chiefly upon the future improvements in harvesting, packing and refrigeration methods. The market for canned apricots, it is stated, can probably be expanded as the present per capita consumption amounts to only 0.55 of a pound in the equivalent of the fresh product. The dried apricot markets, although they take two-thirds of the crop at the present time, have not kept pace with the increase of commercial production. Over one-half of the dried apricot production is exported, and any substantial increase in exports, it is stated, depends largely on the recovery of the European markets from the post-war depression.

As to the future, the bulletin states that production will be substantially higher when the present acreage comes into full bearing, and that there is no immediate prospect that this probable increase can be absorbed at the relatively high price level that apricots now occupy. Consequently growers should expect decreased returns in the future, the bulletin states, unless they are able to improve the quality of their apricots or produce them at lower costs.

### Germany to Lower Duty on Prunes

The German-Yugoslav commercial treaty, which would reduce the German import duty on prunes and which is of interest because the reduced rates when effective will apply to prunes from the United States, was signed on October 6, and will be effective on the twentieth day after ratification. A cablegram from the Commercial Attache at Berlin states that the ratification is expected to follow without difficulty. The rates on prunes as fixed in this treaty are 6 marks per 100 kilos when packed in bulk, and 8 marks per 100 kilos when packed otherwise, as against the present rates of 10 and 20 marks, respectively.

### New Recipes for Asparagus and Peas

Thirteen recipes for asparagus and peas are given in a special article by Miss Mary Hamilton Talbott, appearing in the Pictorial Review for October. These recipes are out of the ordinary, the writer stating in her introduction to the recipes

themselves that "it is not interesting to serve the always welcome asparagus and peas in the same ways time after time, when they have so many wonderful possibilities."

#### Milk Canning in Denmark and Switzerland

The production of the Danish condensed milk industry in 1926 was somewhat lower than during the preceding year, aggregating only 24,345 tons as against 26,445 tons in 1925 and 28,656 tons in 1924, according to a report from the American commercial attache at Copenhagen. The output of sweetened condensed skimmed milk amounted to 19,512 tons. Practically the entire production went for export, chiefly to Great Britain and Germany. The canned-milk industry at present embraces 23 establishments employing in the neighborhood of 700 workers.

The production of canned milk in Switzerland in the first half of 1927 is estimated at approximately 20,000 short tons, practically all of which was exported. Over one-third of this production went to the Straits Settlements and the two other largest individual buyers were France and England.

#### Estimate Issued on Transportation Requirements

Transportation requirements for 27 of the principal commodities during the last quarter of the present year will be about 174,000 cars below the corresponding period last year, according to a report issued by the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association. These estimates are based on reports of 13 regional boards, 7 of which estimate that there will be an increase in requirements in their districts. Of the 27 commodities groups, increases will be required for 14, it is estimated, and among these is canned goods, which includes all kinds of canned food products.

#### Fruit-Canning Concession Sought in Paraguay

German-English interests have requested a concession from the Government of Paraguay for the establishment and operation of a fruit-canning and preserving plant at Asuncion, according to the American minister at that place. Under the proposed concession the company would be authorized to import the necessary machinery and construction materials free of duty. The proposed concession also stipulates that no equal concession shall be granted for a period of ten years to any other enterprise desirous of exploiting the same industry.



### Labor Bureau Issues Retail Price Bulletin

A record of retail prices from 1890 to 1926 is given in Bulletin No. 445 issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report describes how the bureau collects prices, its method of constructing index numbers, and furnishes detailed figures by commodities and cities.

### Supreme Court Refuses to Review Wholesale Grocers Case

The United States Supreme Court has denied the petition for a writ of certiorari filed by the Arkansas Wholesale Grocers Association asking for a review of the order of the Federal Trade Commission requiring the association and other defendants in this case to cease and desist from alleged unfair methods of competition.

### Tin Can Factory Planned at Naples

The construction of a factory within the free zone of the port of Naples for the manufacture of tin cans is contemplated, according to a report from the American consul at Naples. The location of the establishment within the free zone will permit of the free entry of tin plate and presumes direct exportation of the cans. A representative will sail for the United States in the near future, it is stated, to purchase equipment designed to produce 600 cans per minute.

### Trend of Wholesale and Retail Prices in September

Wholesale prices of commodities in September averaged higher than in August, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, whose revised index number, computed on prices in the year 1926 as the base, and including 550 commodities or price series, stands at 96.5 for September compared with 95.2 for the month before, a rise of 1 1/3 per cent. Compared with September, 1926, however, there was a decrease of 3 1/4 per cent. Foodstuffs were generally higher than in August, this being particularly true of butter, cheese, and most meats.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for September 15 an increase of about 1 per cent since August 15, 1927, and a decrease of nearly 3 per cent since September 15, 1926.

### Car Loadings

Loadings of revenue freight for the week ended October 8 totaled 1,100,552 cars, a decrease of 25,838 cars compared with the preceding week, and also a decrease of 74,376 cars under the same week last year.

**Supreme Court to Review Consent Decree Case**

The U. S. Supreme Court has set January 3, 1928, as the date upon which it will hear arguments on the packers' "consent decree," and has ordered submission of a complete record of the case for its consideration.

**New York Times Gives Publicity to Vitamin Facts**

In its issue of September 26 the New York Times published an editorial in which it was stated, among other things, that "there have been too few satisfactory experiments on a large scale as to the effect on a community of an important dietary change like the substitution of fresh for canned vegetables." As this statement with its context inferred that canned foods are lacking in nutritive value, and indicated that the writer of the editorial was unfamiliar with the investigations that have been carried on by the Association in collaboration with Columbia University, a letter was written to the editor by the Research Laboratory, summarizing the results of these investigations. This letter was published in full in the Sunday Times for October 16, thus giving wide publicity to the facts on which many writers, as well as newspaper readers, are not informed.

**Reduced Fares to Annual Convention**

Fare and one-half for round trip on the identification certificate plan has been authorized by the Central Passenger and the Trunk Line Associations for the convention of the National Cannery Association at Chicago next January. Similar reduced rates in other passenger association territories will no doubt be granted as in previous years.